



Department of Justice

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Middle District of Louisiana

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TWO MORE PLEAD GUILTY, ANOTHER INDICTED **IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA, ON DISASTER RELIEF FRAUD CHARGES**

BATON ROUGE, LA – United States Attorney David R. Dugas announced today that two more Louisiana residents pled guilty and another was indicted on fraud charges related to a hurricane disaster relief program.

MARLON D. RANDOLPH, age 32, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, pled guilty on July 21, 2008, before Chief U.S. District Court Judge Ralph E. Tyson to Count One of an indictment charging him with mail fraud. The indictment, filed April 2, 2008, charged that RANDOLPH submitted an application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for Hurricane Katrina disaster assistance benefits that contained false and fraudulent representations, causing him to receive benefits to which he was not entitled. The case was investigated by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service with assistance from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General. As a result of his guilty plea to Count One, RANDOLPH faces a maximum sentence of twenty (20) years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both. As part of the plea agreement, the U.S. Attorney's Office will dismiss Count Two of the indictment when RANDOLPH is sentenced on Count One.

TERRY D. MONTGOMERY, age 23, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, pled guilty today before U.S. District Court Judge Frank J. Polozola to Count Two of an indictment charging him with illegal conversion of government property. The stipulated factual basis contained in the plea agreement states that in September of 2005, the defendant received and cashed a check from FEMA for Hurricane Katrina disaster assistance, even though the defendant knew that he had not suffered damage as a result of the storm and knew that the check had been fraudulently obtained. The case was investigated by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service with assistance from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General. As a result of his guilty plea to Count Two, MONTGOMERY faces a maximum sentence of ten (10) years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both. As part of the plea agreement, the U.S. Attorney's Office will dismiss Count One of the indictment when MONTGOMERY is sentenced on Count Two.

DEBRA D. JACKSON, age 39, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, was charged in a two-count indictment by a federal grand jury today with wire fraud (Count One) and with making a false and fraudulent claim for disaster assistance benefits (Count Two). The charges resulted from an investigation conducted by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General, and the U.S. Secret Service. If convicted on Count One, JACKSON faces a maximum sentence of twenty (20) years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both. If convicted on Count Two, JACKSON faces a maximum sentence of five (5) years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both.

Today's indictment brings the total number of individuals who have been charged in the Middle District of Louisiana with violations related to hurricane disaster relief funds to one hundred forty-nine.

In September 2005, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, designed to deter, investigate and prosecute disaster-related federal crimes such as charity fraud, identity theft, procurement fraud and insurance fraud. The Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force – chaired by Assistant Attorney General Alice S. Fisher of the Criminal Division – includes the FBI, the U.S. Inspectors General community, the U.S. Secret Service, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Executive Office for United States Attorneys and others.

For further information, contact David R. Dugas, U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana, or Lyman Thornton, First Assistant U.S. Attorney, at (225) 389-0443. Anyone suspecting criminal activity involving disaster assistance programs can make an anonymous report by calling the toll-free Hurricane Relief Fraud Hotline, 1-866-720-5721, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, until further notice. Information can also be emailed to the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force at HKFTF@leo.gov or sent by surface mail, with as many details as possible, to Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4909.

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